(b) whether the self-contributory PRBs scheme with reference to aforesaid order dated 6.8.98 is a statutory scheme of Government;

(c) whether his Ministry has given any exemption to the aforesaid PRBs scheme as per E.P.S. 1995 under Act No. 25 of 1996; and

(d) what action Government have taken so far, against ONGC in response to letter of ONGC Employees Association?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) M/s. ONGC had applied for grant of exemption from the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995. As there are several deficiencies in the Pension Scheme of M/s. ONGC, their request for exemption has not been found in order. Accordingly, necessary legal proceedings have been initiated to workout the pension contribution due from the establishment. The matter has also been taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum for securing compliance under the Employees' Pension Scheme from the ONGC.

Proposal for Changing the Trade Union Act

3020. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make changes in the Trade Union Act to control the unchecked growth of unions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) Various amendments to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are proposed based on the requirements of the social partners and in consonance with economic reforms. A cautions policy is adopted to bring about amendments in the Trade Unions Act after taking into consideration all the relevant factors.

Unemployment Allowance to Unemployed Youth

3021. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments are giving unemployment allowance;

(b) if so, what are those State Governments and the amount of allowance given by them to each unemployed youth and the amount borne by the Central Government out of that;

(c) whether Orissa Government has recently announced some unemployment allowance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Governments of Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are paying unemployment allowance ranging from Rs. 50 to Rs. 400 P.M. to specified category of educated unemployed registered with the Employment Exchanges from their own resources.

The Government of Maharashtra has a scheme for providing financial assistance to educated unemployed.

(c) and (d) The Government of Orissa have, in the Governor's Speech in Orissa Assembly on 15.3.99 proposed to make a beginning in providing unemployment doles to registered educated unemployed with a view to covering all registered unemployed within a period of five years.

Workers in Fish Processing Industry

3022. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the available labour laws to assist the workers in fish processing industry;

(b) how many workers are engaged in this industry; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the interests of women labourers working in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The main labour laws applicable to workers (including workers in the Fish Processing Industry) are the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952, Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 etc. For women workers provisions of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Equal Remunoration Act, 1976 are also applicable.

According to 1991 Census, 51,211 workers (including marginal workers) are engaged in the processing, canning and preserving of fish, crustacea and similar foods.

The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 provides for fixation of minimum wages for different categories of workers, and their periodical revision by the respective State Governments. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 provides for equal remeneration for men and women workers. The Acts do not make any distinction on the basis of sex. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 and the Rules framed thereunder provide for various welfare and health measures for such workers. Cases of violation of the provisions of the Acts and Rules are dealt with suitably by the appropriate Government.

Additionally, the Marine Products Export Development Authority also assist the seafood processors to upgrade their facilities to achieve equivalency with the European and US standards, by which the workers get better facilities in the processing plants. Extension Trainings are being given to pre-processing and processing workers for hygenic handling of fishery products.

Financial assitance to women in Punjab

3023. SHRI SUKH DEV SINGH DHINDSA:
SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are providing financial assistance to women in various States; and

(b) if so, the total financial assistance provided to the State of Punjab during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Articles purchased by trifed

3024. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the articles purchased by TRIFED during 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 (State-wise, quantity/rate of purchase and rate of sale);

(b) the source of items purchased from (i) Mandi (ii) Opeen Markets (iii) Government Departments (iv) PSUs under Central Government (v) PSUs under State Government and (vi) Individual Tribals;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints of violation of norms for purchasing the articles from tribals; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Year-wise details of commodities purchased and sold for 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are